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Disallowance of Mineral Tax Act Constitutes Reversal in Canadian Constitutional Development

Decision of Dominion Government of Far-Reaching Importance to Provincial Governments of Canada—
Views of Succeeding Ministers of Justice

By HON. J. E. BROWNLEE

The Alberta Mineral Tax Act was introduced in the Alberta Legislature by the Hon. Mr. Reid on April 14th, 1923, and was finally passed during that session, with very little criticism and very little objection.

The Act provides in brief for a tax of three cents an acre to be paid by owners of the rights to work for minerals, as distinguished from the ownership of the surface rights of land. The tax was to be payable before the first day of September in each year, with provision for forfeiture of the mineral rights after the expiration of a full year from the first of October. Provisions for forfeiture similar to this are common in taxation statutes.

MANY VALUABLE MINERAL AREAS HELD IN PROVINCE

Very great areas of mineral rights are held in this Province, quite distinct and separate from the ownership of surface rights, and many of these areas are extremely valuable because of the mineral resources of the Province. The Government looked upon the ownership of these mineral rights as property which should be as much subject to taxation as surface rights, and three cents per acre was considered a nominal tax.

Under sections 56 and 90 of the British North America Act, the Dominion Government is given the power to disallow Provincial statutes within one year from the time they are received by the Secretary of State. In the early days of Confederation, this right of disallowance was frequently exercised, but a different attitude towards Provincial legislation was gradually adopted, in keeping with a theory of constitutional government as developed by decisions of the Privy Council. In a number of decisions the Privy Council held that within the scope of the provisions of section 92 of the British North America Act which defined the jurisdiction of Provincial legislation, the Provincial Government was a supreme and sovereign authority. In other words, the Provincial Government has as complete jurisdiction as the Dominion Government had, under the authority of section 91.

It was announced in a press despatch from Ottawa, dated April 28th, that the Dominion Government had decided to exercise its authority of disallowance in the case of the Alberta Mineral Tax Act. The constitutional aspect of this decision is discussed by Hon. J. E. Brownlee, Attorney General of Alberta, in the article published below.

As indicated by Hon. R. G. Reid, Provincial Treasurer, in the budget debate, Sir Allen Aylesworth, one of the greatest of authorities on constitutional questions, and a former Minister of Justice of Canada, declared categorically that the British North America Act did not intend that the power of disallowance should be used to annul Provincial Legislation, so long as that legislation was within the power of a Provincial Legislature.

The Alberta Mineral Tax Act, says Mr. Brownlee, is alleged by the Provincial Government to be a direct tax fully within the power of the Province, and he points out that if there were any doubt of its constitutionality, the Province should not have been denied the right to have this question determined by the courts, as was done in the case of the Manitoba tax on grain futures.

DOCTRINE OF SUCCEEDING MINISTERS OF JUSTICE

In keeping with this constitutional theory, the Dominion Government apparently conceded the complete jurisdiction of the Province in its legislative field, and until the present Dominion Government took office, succeeding Ministers of Justice enunciated the doctrine that the British North America Act did not intend that the power of disallowance should be used to annul Provincial legislation on any grounds, so long as such legislation was within the power of the Provincial Legislature, but that the true spirit of the Canadian constitution consisted in placing every Provincial Legislature, within its jurisdiction, upon an absolutely level footing with the Parliament of Canada.

Application for disallowance was filed against the Mineral Tax Act by the Canadian Pacific Railway Co., the C. & E. Land Co., and the Hudson's Bay Co. All these companies had, from the time they obtained their last land grants, con-

stantly followed a deliberate policy of withholding the title to minerals in the sales of their lands, and they are now the owners of immense areas of mineral rights, a great part of which is known to be valuable. In the application for disallowance the jurisdiction of the Province to pass the Act was not seriously questioned, but it was alleged that the Act was confiscatory in principle and contrary to settled principles of taxation, inasmuch as the tax was not based on the value of the mineral rights, and that these values could not be ascertained without development. At the time of writing we have not before us the reasons given for the disallowance, but the daily press reports that the Department of Justice had reported that the bill was unconstitutional and confiscatory in nature.

DENIED RIGHT OF DECISION OF COURTS

As to the first objection, the Provincial Government alleges that the tax is a direct tax, fully within the power

(Continued on Page 11)

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Organization for Farm Women

By Mrs. Wm. Vernon, Vice-President
Craigmyle U. F. W. A.

Farm women should organize, because they are the helpers and co-workers in one of the greatest vocations in Alberta or I might say, the world, namely, agriculture. The industry needs the organization, needs co-operation among the farm people and also an expression of thought from them.

In a U. F. W. A. Local we learn to be successful co-operators; the watchword for our business is co-operation and by organization we become a unit in that great mass which composes the organization of the United Farmers of Alberta.

Developing Latent Abilities

There is none other in the Province like it, and when it speaks, we know it is the voice of organized agriculture.

Farm women should organize to enable them to develop their numerous talents. Almost anyone may learn how to work and work hard on a farm, but it takes the club to show us how we may develop our latent abilities. We learn how to conduct a meeting, to work on committees, to think and speak while on our feet, to read and discuss intelligently, to debate, to compose papers, and give addresses on topics pertaining to our farm life and to the life of the nation. Farm women should organize to secure labor saving devices for the home, to lighten their work so that they may have time for recreation and thought, time to attend meetings and time to have good health. Then they may learn to be good mothers and how to assist in child welfare, social service and educational work.

Organized farm women soon learn the need of co-operative methods in marketing and purchasing. In short they learn to think and act for themselves. Club meetings create a social atmosphere which has been gradually growing in Alberta; they build up a community spirit, which is essential to happiness and progress.

By meeting together and discussing their problems, the farm women broaden their outlook on life, realize the responsibilities of citizenship, and learn to become intelligent voters and well informed citizens.

Promoting Community Spirit

We in the Craigmyle Local have been trying to promote a community spirit between town and country; also a spirit of co-operation among the members of our organization. During the winter months of last year, we held sewing meetings for the relief of the drought sufferers. Owing to the good crop last summer in Alberta our services were not needed along this line, so we decided to help each other with the spring sewing. The members meet at each other's homes and enjoy a nice social time besides helping the busy farm woman with her sewing problems.

In conclusion I would say, that the farm women need to organize to solidify the forces we have. If women's interests lie in other directions, enthusiasm wanes and the stimulus is lacking in the farmers' clubs, but with an unbounded enthusiasm we develop leaders among ourselves, and leaders among the rising generation who will carry the banner of "Equal Rights to All, Special Privileges to None" unto victory and give agriculture her rightful place.

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS

	PAGE
DISALLOWANCE OF MINERAL TAX ACT REVERSAL IN CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT	1
EDITORIAL	3
BUDGET CONCESSIONS DUE TO FARMERS' ACTIVITIES	4
CASE FOR REMOVAL OF MOUNTAIN SCALE	5
PERSONAL NATURALIZATION OF MARRIED WOMEN PRESENTS DIFFICULTIES	6
LOCAL CO-OPERATION CHIEF CAUSE OF SUCCESS	7
IMPORTANT AMENDMENTS TO STATUTE LAW	8
NEWS OF THE ORGANIZATION	9
NEW WHEAT POOL LISTS ALMOST COMPLETED	10
BETTER CONDITIONS SOUGHT FOR SOLDIER SETTLERS	12

EDITORIAL

A THREAT TO ALL THE PROVINCES

Disallowance of the Alberta Mineral Tax Act by the Dominion Government, without opportunity having been given to the Province to test the constitutionality of the act in the courts, is a flagrant violation of the spirit of the constitution of Canada, and, in the light of all the circumstances, must be regarded as a deliberate betrayal by the Liberal Government at Ottawa of principles which have been enunciated for many years past by the most eminent constitutionalists and jurists in the Liberal party itself. Apparently succumbing to the influences brought to bear upon it by powerful corporations, the Ottawa Government has taken a course which raises in an acute form the whole question of Provincial rights and Provincial autonomy.

The possibility that the Dominion Government might take this course was intimated during the recent session of the Alberta Legislature by J. R. Boyle, the Liberal leader in the Assembly, who expressed confidence that the Mineral Tax Act would be disallowed; and by C. R. Mitchell, another leading member of the party. It is significant that last year the act met with little opposition. It was only after the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Hudson's Bay Company and the C. and E. Land Company had entered their appeal, and presumably had brought powerful pressure to bear at Ottawa, that certain of the Liberal members in the Assembly began darkly to hint that the act might be disallowed, and later, openly to attack it, and to express confidence that it would be disallowed. These circumstances add significance to the political aspects of the Dominion Government's decision.

In Canada the Federal Government has unqualified power to disallow legislation passed by a Provincial Assembly, although in Australia no such unqualified right exists. Interference by the Federal authorities with Provincial legislation, however, except in cases in which the Dominion Government is bound to interfere on the ground that the legislation is beyond the powers of the Province, is a direct violation of the spirit of our constitution. And if any item of Provincial legislation is considered ultra vires, its constitutionality should be passed upon, not by a political body such as the Dominion Government, but by the courts of the Dominion.

The decision of the Dominion Government in the present instance is of concern to every Province of Canada. It constitutes a precedent of a most dangerous character, and is a direct threat to the principles of Provincial legislative autonomy.

* * *

ADOPTING THE ALBERTA PLAN?

"The fighting heart of the political movement is to be militant economic groups," declares the New York "Nation", in an article describing the plans which are now being rap-

idly advanced, with a view to the co-operation of various farmer, labor and allied organizations in the next political contest in the United States.

The plan of organization to be followed by these bodies, which represent the great majority of the States of the Union, "makes economic groups the real basis for political action," says the "Nation." "Trades unions, farmers' economic organizations, associations of men and women, professional and otherwise, are to become the locals . . . For it must be remembered that the workers have seen third-party movements rise and be absorbed into thin air, or into old parties, and they do not propose, they say, to lose this one the same way."

The progressive forces in the United States are thus, today, preparing to adopt a plan apparently similar to the plan adopted by the farmers of Alberta when they decided to take political action. The Alberta farmers decided to make no change in their organization, to set up no dual institutions, but to take political action through the U. F. A. itself, and in consequence of the adoption of this policy they stand today as the most influential farmers' organization in Canada. The farmers of the United States, and the other groups which have apparently agreed to follow a course resembling in many respects the course now followed in Alberta, may be expected to become a permanent force, if the principles outlined by "The Nation" are adhered to.

The road to victory will doubtless be a long one. In Alberta little more than a beginning has been made. And the progressive forces in the United States are only just commencing to realize that the formation of a new political party on the old plan, while it might create a diversion and raise among the people many glowing hopes, would inevitably lead in the long run to failure and disaster.

* * *

"The Nation" is one of the most influential and one of the most reliable of the national periodicals of progressive outlook published in the United States. The fact that it announces, with apparent approval, the impending adoption of a new plan of action in the political field, resembling that of the U. F. A., is a matter of more than ordinary interest to the farmers of Alberta.

Whether the forces of prejudice and ignorance which have hitherto kept the progressive groups of the United States in conflict one with the other, can again succeed, remains to be seen. The new movement has received a powerful stimulus as a result of the Teapot Dome and other recent revelations at Washington, but appears to give at least some promise that it may prove more than a mere passing phase in political evolution in the Republic.

* * *

Instead of talking the meaningless fatuities which are apparently expected of public men, E. J. Garland, M.P., in a recent speech at Montreal, described without camouflage of any kind the real condition of the farmers of Alberta. His speech was courageous, and very much to the point, and as reported was nothing more than a statement of the facts. We have recently published in "The U. F. A." reports sent in from various districts, upon the serious loss of agricultural population which the Province has suffered. Our own information bears out everything which Mr. Garland is reported to have said.

We believe that the day has gone by when settlers can be attracted to this country by newspaper "boosting" or by "painting Canada in attractive colors." We have the utmost confidence in the future of Alberta, but nothing is to be gained by an ostrich-like optimism. Mr. Garland is to be congratulated. We are satisfied that the statements which he made at Montreal will meet with the approval of the

(Continued on page 10)

Budget Concessions Due to Activities of the Organized Farmers of Canada

Farmers Prepared to Unite With Consuming Public of Towns and Cities to Wipe Out Every Vestige of Protective Principle—Reductions Required on Necessities of Life—Debate on Capital Punishment

By W. T. LUCAS, U. F. A. Member for Victoria

Since the last article was written from Ottawa for "The U. F. A." the main matter presented to the House has been the budget speech, which was delivered on April 10th, by the Acting Minister of Finance, Hon. J. A. Robb. While it was the first budget delivered by Mr. Robb, members on all sides of the House freely offered congratulations for the concise, frank and forceful manner in which it was presented. All members felt keenly the absence of the Rt. Hon. Mr. Fielding, whose eloquence and charm have always made of this event an outstanding feature in the proceedings of the session.

Not in many years has so much interest been displayed as to what the budget proposals would show, and for weeks past speculation had been rife, and no little anxiety felt as to just how far the Government would go towards implementing its tariff platform of 1919. Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen at a public meeting in Windsor a short time ago, assumed the role of prophet, and predicted that any reductions which might be made would be so small that they could be contained in the left hand corner of a thimble. No doubt the wish was father to the thought.

Budget Surplus

The statement contained in the budget speech that the surplus of revenue over expenditures would this year amount to \$20,786,349, will no doubt give a feeling of confidence to the people of the Dominion, as it would be the first year since the war began that we have had a balanced budget. But is this really true, or is it merely a matter of bookkeeping? For the fiscal year 1922-23 the total revenue amounted to \$403,094,210.30, and total disbursements, including railways, Canadian Government Merchant Marine, and other obligations, amounted to \$434,735,277.31, thus adding to our national debt the sum of \$31,641,067.01.

For the fiscal year 1923-24 the total estimated revenue amounted to \$396,000,000. The total disbursements, figuring on exactly the same basis as last year, viz., ordinary expenditure, plus Railways, Merchant Marine, and other obligations, amounted to \$425,213,651, which would show a deficit again this year of \$29,213,651, but instead of adding the full railway obligation of \$74,550,000, they added only \$24,550,000, and raised the balance of \$50,000,000 by way of a guarantee, and presto! instead of a real deficit, we are told that our national debt is to be reduced by \$20,786,249. If this manner of financing will reduce our national debt, why would it not be good business to have raised by way of guarantee the full amount of the railway obligations, and so reduce our debt by another \$24,550,000?

Reductions Long Over-due

The reduction of the tariff on implements which enter into the development of our basic industries is a step which has been long over-due, and the statement made by the Minister, of bringing

AMENDMENT EMPHASIZES FARMERS' TARIFF PROPOSALS

Mr. Lucas' article was written shortly after the opening of the debate on the Budget in the House of Commons. On April 24th, J. S. Woodsworth, Labor member for Winnipeg, moved an amendment calling for immediate and substantial reductions in the tariff on the necessities of life, including foodstuffs, clothing and building material, J. T. Shaw, member for West Calgary, seconding the motion. In behalf of the Conservatives, A. C. Doucet, member for Kent, moved an amendment on April 25th, declaring that "this House is of the opinion that the welfare of Canada requires a consistently maintained protective policy. This was ruled out of order. The Woodsworth-Shaw amendment which embraces demands which have been made from year to year by the organized farmers of Canada, was in the following terms:

"That, whilst the budget proposals would seem to indicate the recognition by the Government of the necessity for a fiscal policy designed to encourage industries based upon the development of the natural resources of the country, and to afford some alleviation of the financial burden bearing upon the people;

"And whereas, the condition of such industries and the position of consumers in general is such as to demand relief;

"Therefore be it resolved, that the best interests of Canada will be served by an immediate and substantial reduction in the tariff on the necessities of life, including foodstuffs, clothing and building materials;

"And, further, that the loss of revenue, if any, which might result from such reduction in customs duties should be made good by:

(a) The readjustment and extension of the income tax to bear heavily on unearned incomes;

(b) By a direct tax on unimproved land values, including all natural resources;

(c) The institution of a graduated inheritance tax on large estates.

To comply with a ruling of the Speaker, the latter part of the amendment was changed to read as follows:

"And further, it is desired:

(a) That the income tax should be so readjusted as to bear more heavily on unearned incomes;

(b) That unimproved land values, including all natural resources, should not be exempt from taxation;

(c) That a graduated inheritance tax on large estates should be considered.

in a real National policy for the development of said basic industries, is to be commended, for it is the only sound policy for Canada to pursue. Let me quote Mr. Robb's own words:

"Of these basic industries I would place agriculture in all its varied branches first. Next to agriculture I would place our forests, our minerals and our fisheries. A real National policy is a policy that will encourage

the growth and development of these basic industries. The more the products of the farm, the fisheries, the mines, and the forest we have going to markets, the greater will be the earnings of our transportation companies, the greater the purchasing powers of the nation, and as a consequence we shall have factories running full time and tradesmen working overtime to supply the needs of those who will have money to buy."

This policy will place the horse before the cart in place of leaving it behind, where it has been ever since Confederation.

The removal of the sales tax from a number of items, and a reduction over all, will no doubt be received favorably by the people of the Dominion, and if the estimate of the Minister of the reduction of \$24,000,000 is correct, it should go a considerable way in relieving those industries of the burdens they have hitherto borne, particularly when it is realized that the relief afforded is far greater than the figures would indicate, due to the pyramiding which inevitably takes place before such taxes are finally paid by the ultimate purchasers.

Prefer All Round Reductions

While the reductions that have been made are satisfactory as far as they go, the Progressives would have preferred to have seen the reductions made all along the line, even if in a smaller degree, and thus have spread the benefits to the people as a whole, but they are prepared to offer this suggestion, that while the concessions made thus far are due in no small part to the organized activities of the farmers, that if the consuming public in our towns and cities will join with us, it will only be a short time until we will wipe out every vestige of the principle of protection from our fiscal policy, leaving the tariff to be considered on its merits as a revenue producer, and thus make Canada one of the cheapest countries in the world in which to live.

Visualize for a moment what this would mean with our latent national resources lying at our hand, with a virile posterity, reared in a land that breeds strength, courage, faith and democracy. A speedy development would at once commence, and instead of sitting helplessly by and seeing our sons and daughters leaving Canada to escape the limitations of a moribund National Policy, our young Canadians would gladly rally to the call and join in building a better and a greater Canada, and thus fit her to take her rightful place amongst the nations of the world that she is destined to hold.

It should be kept in mind, however, that the anticipated results might be jeopardized to some extent if anything in the way of an unfair method of valuation

(Continued on page 8)

Case for Removal of Mountain Scale Presented to Dominion Government

Removal of Existing Discrimination Urged in Behalf of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, by H. E. G. H. Scholefield, Vice-President of the U. F. A.—Full Benefit of New Route Should Be Obtained by Producers

I desire on behalf of the Canadian Council of Agriculture to call your attention to the following resolution, passed at a meeting of the Council held in Winnipeg, on March 1st, 1924.

Clause (7) of that resolution, being worded as follows:

The necessity of providing equalized freight rates upon grain on the Western and Eastern routes—This means that in the opinion of the Council, the mountain scale of rates on grain should be abolished. The mountain scale of rates applies to a point about 680 miles east from the Pacific Coast, and reaches about as far as Canmore on the Canadian Pacific Railway and Edson on the Canadian National Railway. Until 1st August, 1922, the mountain scale rates were 50 per cent. higher than prairie rates. On that date the rates were reduced to a point 25 per cent. above prairie rates. On October 10th, 1923, the difference was further reduced by an order of the Board of Railway Commissioners, to approximately 22½ per cent. above the prairie rates.

Importance of Mountain Rates

The question of mountain rates has been considered until recently a strictly British Columbia question, but events and developments in the past few years have made the question one of vital importance to the whole Prairie West, and especially the Provinces of Alberta and Western Saskatchewan. The question has been dealt with at length in at least three cases before the Railway Board. In 1906 in the case known as the Pacific Coast Cities vs. C. P. R., in 1914 in the Western rates case, and during 1921, 1922 and 1923, in the equalization case, in which the Alberta Government joined with the B. C. Government in seeking to have this rate discrimination removed.

The developments referred to in the previous paragraph, are the completion of the Panama Canal, the construction of the Government elevator at Vancouver, and the trial shipment of wheat to Great Britain in 1917.

During the war period of high prices and the need for shipping, there was but little development in the shipment of grain by Vancouver. However, during the period of falling prices of farm products generally and especially grain, the need for lower transportation costs became imperative, and the fact that grain could be shipped from Alberta and Saskatchewan to Great Britain through Vancouver for three to seven cents less than through Fort William, aroused an interest in the Westward route for grain that has steadily grown.

Few Cents' Saving Vital

A saving of a few cents a bushel may not be very material with wheat at \$2.50 a bushel, but it is vital with wheat selling at \$1.00 per bushel. It is true that owing to the lack of a cash market, the farmers have not been getting this saving. This year through the operation of the Alberta Wheat Pool, some benefit

CANADIAN COUNCIL'S PROPOSALS

The case for the abolition of the Mountain Scale of freight rates, as presented to the Dominion Government recently, in behalf of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, by H. E. G. H. Scholefield, Vice-president of the U. F. A., is given on this page. Mr. Scholefield was a member of the delegation of the C. C. A. who were received by the Prime Minister. W. A. Amos, President of the Council, who headed the delegation, declared that the burden of the tariff is "one of the chief reasons why thousands of farmers have already been forced off the land and many thousands more are on the verge of bankruptcy." "We are accused," he said, "of being confirmed cranks. The farmer is up against it, and is in no mood to stand for that kind of criticism, nor is he in the mood to be told that he should practice further economy."

J. W. Ward, Secretary of the Council, presented the case for tariff reduction; George F. Edwards, President of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, urged the advisability of "using the national credit to provide the agricultural industry with long term credit"; while D. G. McKenzie, Secretary of the United Farmers of Manitoba, impressed upon the Government the "urgent need for rigid economy in Governmental administration." J. A. Maharg, President of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company, urged the desirability of proceeding at once with the branch lines program of the Canadian National Railways, and also expressed the view of the Council that the elevators at the Pacific Coast should be placed under the control of the Board of Grain Commissioners, rather than the Harbor Commission. Mrs. James Elliott, President of the United Farm Women of Manitoba, dealt with the question of the citizenship of married women. Various other important matters were brought to the attention of the Government.

will accrue to the growers of wheat, and as the route develops, there should be an increasing benefit accruing to the individual farmer. Through co-operative effort and the possible establishment of a cash market, the producers of wheat should be able to get the full benefit of any reduction in the cost of transportation that may possibly be secured through shipment by Vancouver as opposed to shipment by Fort William. The difference is greatest at such points as Calgary and Edmonton, and tends to disappear as one approaches Central Saskatchewan.

It is imperative that every possible reduction in the cost of marketing grain, should receive the careful consideration of the Government of Canada, in order that the alarming movement of settlers off the land may be stopped.

In 1922, Alberta produced 61 million bushels of wheat and 50 million bushels of other grain. The cattle of the Province numbered 1,635,042; horses 863,316; sheep 410,366; swine 623,188; poultry 5,935,325. Wool was produced to the

extent of two million lbs., worth \$348,000. Dairy products worth \$23,000,000 were produced. During 1923 the total wheat production reached the splendid total of 167,000,000 bushels, worth approximately \$125,000,000. It should not be necessary to quote further figures to support the statement that grain is and will be a very important item in the making or breaking of the farmers of the West.

Comparative Figures

In export grain rates we have the following figures, from such points as Edmonton and Calgary to Fort William and Vancouver. The carload rate from Edmonton and Calgary to Vancouver is 22½ cents per hundred pounds. The rate to Fort William is 26 cents per hundred pounds. The distance from Calgary to Vancouver is 641 miles; from Calgary to Fort William 1,251 miles; from Edmonton to Vancouver 769 miles; from Edmonton to Fort William 1,234 miles.

The breaking point, where rates tend to an equality for East and West shipments, is about Saskatoon or Regina, but this of course varies with the cost of shipping on the Ocean and the Great Lakes, and also as between the seasons of open and closed navigation on the Great Lakes.

Possibly sufficient has been said to show how vital the question is to the prairie farmers, where almost everybody grows some wheat and a large percentage grow it as a main crop.

The figures quoted in regard to grain rates are export rates, and in passing I would like to point out that on domestic rates the discrimination is much greater, running from a difference of nearly 100 per cent. at a distance of 1,000 miles from Vancouver and Fort William to 120 per cent. at points 600 miles from these terminals.

E. W. Beatty's Objection

The reasons that have been advanced for the maintenance of this differential, i.e., the mountain scale as compared with the prairie scale are as follows:

E. W. Beatty for the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, in the case of British Columbia Pacific Coast Cities vs. Canadian Pacific Railway in 1906, before the Board of Railway Commissioners, said: "The evidence shows that the cost of operation, maintenance and construction of the Pacific division is twice as great in regard to the first two and exceeded by an enormous amount in regard to the last as compared with the prairie divisions. It also shows that in view of the empty car movement Westward, and the sparsely settled territory through which the mountain divisions run, that the rates from Vancouver Eastward are relatively not so high as from Winnipeg Westward. To summarize: operation and maintenance cost twice as much in the mountains as on the prairies, and cost of construction exceeded by an enormous amount, the cost of construction on the prairies. Then there was the difficulty of the cost of the empty car movement Westward, and the thin settlements, resulting in lack of traffic."

In addition to the C. P. R., the cities of Winnipeg and Calgary were also represented

(Continued on Page 13)

Personal Naturalization of Married Women Presents Insuperable Difficulties, Says Under Secretary of State

Present Regulations in Nature of Treaty, Thomas Mulvey Informs Secretary of U. F. A. Group at Ottawa, Who Presented Convention Resolution to Dominion Government

"Insuperable difficulties" bar the way to the enactment of legislation to provide for personal naturalization of married women, states Thomas Mulvey, Under Secretary of State, in a letter to Henry E. Spencer, M.P., secretary of the U. F. A. group in the Canadian House of Commons. The letter was written in reply to representations made by Mr. Spencer to the Secretary of State, to whom he presented the resolution on this subject passed by the U. F. A. Annual Convention in Edmonton in January last. This resolution was in the following terms:

That we reaffirm our stand for an amendment to the Naturalization Act to enable married women to take out personal naturalization papers and to permit a married woman who is a British subject but who married a person of foreign citizenship to retain her British nationality unless she choose to do otherwise.

Mulvey's Reply

Mr. Mulvey's reply was as follows: Department of the Secretary of State of Canada.

Ottawa, 26th March, 1924.

Sir,—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, covering a copy of a resolution passed at the last Annual Convention of the United Farmers of Alberta, advocating an amendment to the Naturalization Act providing for the personal naturalization of married women. This letter, which was addressed to the Minister, has been handed to me to be answered.

There are insuperable difficulties in the way of the Canadian Parliament introducing or passing legislation authorizing the personal naturalization of married women.

The Naturalization Acts, 1914-1920, were originally passed in 1914, after being duly considered by the Imperial Conferences from 1889 to 1914. The subject was first dealt with by an inter-departmental committee, which made a report on the 24th of July, 1901. That report was circulated to all the Dominions and was the subject of correspondence extending over several years. It was before the Colonial Conference in 1902, and various Colonial and Imperial Conferences in later years. The first draft of the bill was prepared in 1907, and was circulated to the Dominions with an explanatory memorandum. Extensive correspondence again ensued.

In Nature of a Treaty

The result, therefore, is undoubtedly that while the Naturalization Act may be deemed to be legislation of the various units of the British Empire where it has been brought into force, it is also in the nature of a treaty between the United Kingdom and the Dominions, and it is understood that none of the essential features of the act should be altered without a conference of the United Kingdom and all the Dominions upon the subject.

Our act as it stands, then, is similar to that in force in the United Kingdom, Newfoundland and Australia.

Before Committee of Lords

The subject of the personal naturalization of married women was before a Select Committee of the House of Lords and the House of Commons of the United Kingdom on the nationality of married women. The committee was appointed on the 13th of March, 1923, and sat through the months of May and June of that year. The subject was exhaustively considered and a draft report was dealt with. It was found impossible for the committee to agree upon the terms of this report, and the following report was submitted to Parliament:

That the committee have met to examine the British law as to the nationality of married women, to consider in their legal and practical aspects the question involved in the possession by husband and wife of the same or of different nationalities, and, with due regard thereto, and to the operation of the laws of foreign countries, to report what, if any, alteration of the British law is desirable.

The committee having been unable to come to an agreement as to the form of a report, have directed their proceedings, together with the evidence, to be laid before both Houses of Parliament.

In view of this conclusion, no legislation has been adopted or is likely to be

adopted by the Parliament of the United Kingdom, and until this is done the Parliament of Canada cannot act.

Irrespective of these difficulties, I respectfully suggest that the United Farmers of Alberta and other organizations which are pressing for this legislation have not considered the subject as deeply as it requires. They no doubt look to the independence which they believe would accrue from personal naturalization, without considering the difficulties which would also follow. If the personal naturalization of women prevailed throughout the civilized nations of the world these difficulties might perhaps be negligible, but we must recognize the fact that with, I believe, two exceptions (the United States and one other country), the nationality of the wife follows that of the husband.

The result of the proposed legislation would be that in many cases married women would have no nationality whatever, could not procure passports, would be unable to travel, and would be subject to disabilities which they apparently have not looked for, or—possibly do not wish to see.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) THOMAS MULVEY,
Under Secretary of State.

Labor Desires Closer Co-operation With the Farmers of Alberta

Largest Political Convention Ever Held by Organized Labor Forces Takes Place in Calgary

Closer co-operation between organized Farmer and Labor groups in this Province was warmly urged by the annual convention of the Alberta Section, Canadian Labor Party, held in Calgary on April 13th and 19th. This convention, the most important and most largely attended gathering of the political branch of organized labor which has hitherto been held in Alberta, reflected the growing strength of Labor in the political field.

In his annual address the president, George Latham, stressed the necessity for the closest co-operation with the Farmer movement. Leaders of both movements, said Mr. Latham, "realize that the economic necessity of both groups will eventually prove the common ground for our mutual well being." The delegates later adopted this section of the president's address, and instructed the executive to endeavor to arrange a working understanding between these two political organizations.

Other resolutions recommended an interchange of fraternal delegates between U. F. A. Locals and branches of the Canadian Labor Party, and pledged the convention to do all in its power to support the farmers in any efforts to better their conditions, and to bring together the farmers and wage workers.

AIMS WHICH MUST BE DEFEATED

H. E. G. H. Scholefield, Vice-President of the U. F. A., was the fraternal delegate

from that organization, and in his address he also advocated a closer understanding between the farmer and labor movements. He said that the rank and file of both organizations had much in common, and that if even greater co-operation than that which existed could be brought about, it would benefit both. He warned the convention that there were forces at work trying to keep them apart, and it was for the labor men to see that these aims were defeated. The farmers' organization, he said, was heartily in favor of the labor movement, and they should do all in their power to help each other along.

INOCULATION OF SWEET CLOVER

Cultures for the inoculation of sweet clover, alfalfa, peas and other legume seeds may be obtained from the Claresholm School of Agriculture. In a letter to "The U. F. A.", the principal, J. C. Hooper, states that certain kinds of bacteria are required in order to secure the most vigorous growth of legumes. From April 1st until June 30th the cultures will be prepared and supplied, with instructions, at a nominal charge of 25 cents for a sufficient quantity to inoculate 60 pounds of seed.

NEW LOCAL

Fairview Local, organized near Bruce, in Victoria constituency, elected F. Doncaster and W. A. Welby as president and secretary respectively.

Practical Local Co-Operation Chief Cause of Success at Loyalty

The Most Important Things Are the Things That We Can Do Ourselves— Saving of Millions as Result of Action of Elected Members Is Not so Readily Realized by Average Member, as Local Results

By WILLIAM H. HOPPINS, Secretary Loyalty Local

We have just finished our membership drive, covering one and one-half townships, and we were very successful, enrolling 66 members or 90 per cent. It ran concurrently with the Wheat Pool drive, with similar results.

Putting on a membership drive and making it a success requires serious thinking. It is first to get the farmers to pay their \$3 membership fee and then when the whole country-side is signed up, how to hold these men in the organization. It is a form of salesmanship. When you get a farmer to part with \$3 these days you have to make him see that it is worth it. What had we to offer? Our Local had been in operation about eight years and I believe we can claim that we never missed a month without holding a meeting excepting harvest, and we always managed to send a delegate to the Annual Convention.

Several of our members were injured and we took care of their stock and harvest. Last year a man suffered a broken leg at harvest, and although we were all shorthanded, we went on a Sunday and cut and shocked his grain, and I believe every man that helped grew spiritually as much as though he had been in church, realizing that the little giving by the lot of us, made it easier for our neighbor to put up with his misfortune. That also helped.

Co-operative Buying

What we found that appealed to most of them both far and near, was co-operative buying and selling. Everybody was pleased and hopeful about the Wheat Pool, but the co-operation that I believe aids the greatest to give a Local permanent form and worthwhileness to farmers too far from a meeting place, is the dollars and cents saved in buying lumber, fence posts, wire, flour, salt and other things that can be purchased in car lots either by the Local or by co-operating with nearby Locals that use the same shipping point. I think that the Wheat Pool will be a success, and that other co-operative ventures will follow, that will be successful, must be successful if we are to survive and prosper, but while they are in the formative stages, and forever afterward, it will be necessary to keep the membership in the U. F. A. as high as possible, as our leaders can only lead according to the support given by the Locals.

The saving of millions on the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement, the saving of a few cents a bushel through the Wheat Pool, means many millions more, but has not the same direct appeal as the dollars saved in buying a carload of lumber, which also runs into millions, if the practice is general, and helps make the great savings easier to accomplish.

I would like to state here that a good many farmers make a mistake in thinking every local storekeeper is a pirate, and think that if they could only put him out of business it would be a big step forward. There may be such store-

keepers, no doubt, but most of them have a good lively time in making both ends meet, because the expensive system of distribution, unsound credit, and curtailment of the farmer's buying power are eating into him, just as it is hurting us.

There are also storekeepers that resent a U. F. A. Local's co-operative buying as an encroachment on their rights. They are also wrong. Rather they should encourage the Locals. There are a number of lines such as flour, salt, sugar, etc., on which the profit is small in proportion to cost of handling, that adapt themselves very readily to carlot handling by the Locals, and what money is saved is available for purchases at the local store for goods that the Local cannot handle. The local merchant that co-operates with the Local, even to the extent of taking part of the order, will derive benefits from this action.

Practical Education

Another mutual advantage of this co-operative buying is the educational value. You learn more about what the storekeeper pays for his goods, and the difficulties of running a strictly cash business. On the other hand if the local prices are out of line they have a tendency of getting the kinks taken out, as

co-operative buying is in a measure constructive criticism, and without this nearly anything can get into a rut.

Organization of collecting and distributing orders is perhaps more important than anything else in making this work successful. A sufficient number of directors should be chosen, to link up the Local solidly, so the work will not be a burden on a few, as they must necessarily donate their time. When you start paying salaries and commissions, your overhead will soon eat your profits. If all the members would only consider the proposition like a pool, where everybody must contribute, before anybody can get any returns, they would soon travel a long way toward making it a success.

We believe that Central Office could assist us by encouraging firms willing to help us do our business to advertise in "The U. F. A." and operating an information bureau for this purpose.

Success Through Experience

In conclusion I would like to emphasize that co-operation can only become permanent through experience. Without practical experience in the ups and downs of co-operative effort, in a local way, we can not expect to make as great a success of the larger things that we are now undertaking.

Annual Conference of Co-operative League

Important Gathering in Red Deer on June 4th and 5th

Editor, "The U. F. A."

The second annual conference of the Alberta Co-operative League will be held at Red Deer on June 4th and 5th, 1924.

Quite recently the co-operative movement was honored by a visit from the Prince of Wales, when he inspected the warehouses of the C. W. S. Leman, London, England.

The English co-operators are now putting up an artistic superstructure, but we in the west are only just laying the foundation. Are you members of the U. F. A. going to take your part, and help to make this solid and lasting? The movement is here to stay, and it is up to us to be loyal to each other, as only by united effort can we expect to forge ahead. It is fidelity and practical help that will finally win out, and spell success.

The committee make a special appeal to associations to send their managers and other representatives to the annual conference, so that we can discuss all matters affecting the movement in our Province.

Will officers of co-operative associations please send to the secretary as early as possible, any matter that they would like put on the agenda for discussion.

The agenda and full particulars of the conference will be forwarded in due course.

T. SWINDLEHURST,
Edgerton, Alta. Secretary.

BELIEVES WEEKLY NEEDED

"I am enclosing a clipping from a farmers' paper in North Dakota, which is now extinct. It was a daily, and they tried to do too much on the start," states George Rodney of Chin, in a letter to "The U. F. A." "We need a weekly or bi-weekly in a prosperous condition much more than a hard-up daily. The daily will come later."

EXPECT INCREASE IN WEST EDMONTON

Meetings addressed by Andrew Rafn, Director for East Edmonton, in the Athabasca district, prior to the opening of spring work, were well attended, although many farmers were away from home hauling lumber and ties from the various camps to the river. The Wheat Pool and the co-operative marketing of farm products generally were the principal topics of discussion, and great interest was evinced in both. Mr. Rafn looks for a substantial increase in membership in this district. The places visited were Batiste Lake, Lataieville, Sawdy, Parkhurst and Plum Lake schools, Colinton and Warspite.

Fairview Local, organized near Bruce, in Victoria constituency, elected F. Doncaster and W. A. Welby as president and secretary respectively.

Important Amendments to Statute Law of Interest to Alberta Farmers

Changes in Legislation Concerning Seed Grain Liens, Tax Recovery, Threshers' Liens, and Municipal Districts Act

In accordance with an amendment of the Municipal Districts Seed Grain Act, passed at the session of the Legislative Assembly recently closed, no charge or lien created under the provisions of the act will acquire any priority thereby, over first mortgages registered at the time of the creation of the charge or lien. This amendment meets certain objections which had been raised to the priorities formerly granted under the act.

The Tax Recovery Act was amended to provide that notice of proceedings being taken to acquire title of lands which have not been redeemed, shall be sent by mail to registered owners, caveators and mortgagees, the municipality concerned paying to the registrar the fees chargeable for the giving of such notices, and these fees being added to the costs chargeable by the municipality against the land. Action sales will be held within eighteen months of the time when land passes into the hands of a municipality, instead of twelve months, as heretofore.

To Notify by Mail

In accordance with an amendment of the Land Titles Act, when a caveat is forwarded to the registrar with respect to any parcel of land not registered under the provisions of the act, together with an affidavit that the person named is the owner of the land, the registrar is required to notify this person by registered mail, that unless he shows cause why he should not be registered as owner, he shall be so registered within a period of one month, and issue a certificate of title.

An amendment to the Domestic Animals Act gives power to the Minister of Agriculture to order the castration of any or every stallion unlawfully running at large in an improvement district. The Minister may order a round up of livestock upon public grazing lands, and make all necessary provision therefor.

The Threshers' Lien Act was amended to provide that grain retained shall be removed within sixty days, instead of thirty days as formerly.

Under the Seed Grain Act as amended the Government has now been given power to accept from any person indebted to the Government in respect to advances or relief made before or after the passing of the amendment, any additional security beyond that named in the act as adopted in 1922. Provision is made for the registration of such security, when accepted.

If satisfied that taxation of grazing leases or permits would be unduly onerous, the Government may, under the provisions of an amendment to the Municipal Districts Act, divide the lands affected by such leases or permits into classes, and may prescribe the taxes to be paid in respect to each class, but not in excess of the limits laid down in the act. A similar provision is made in respect to Improvement Districts.

Indemnification for Hay Advances

Another amendment to the Municipal Districts Act gives the council of a muni-

In addition to measures of such vital importance to the farming community as the Act to Provide Facilities for the Creation of Co-operative Marketing Associations, the Act to Incorporate the Alberta Co-operative Wheat Producers, Limited, the Act to Provide for the Setting Up of a Farm Loans Board, which were, together with the Highways Act, and certain other measures, the outstanding measures of the recent session of the Alberta Legislature, a considerable number of minor amendments to existing statutes were adopted. A number of these which have a more or less direct bearing on the farming industry and on rural communities generally, are outlined below. An article dealing at length with amendments to the Alberta Co-operative Credit Act, for the purpose of increasing the usefulness of the societies and strengthening their position, is unavoidably held over for publication in our next issue.

cipal district power "to indemnify and keep harmless all or any of the persons who, from public spirited motives, and not for profit, borrowed money from a bank or other lender for the purpose of securing hay for the farmers of the district during the end of the year 1919 and the beginning of the year 1920." This indemnification will be done by "the discharge of the outstanding liabilities of any such person or persons, or by the repayment to any such person, or by both, or by such other means as may seem good to the council," which may for any such purpose or purposes expend such portion of the general revenue of the municipal district as may be necessary.

The act is also amended to provide that the property liable to taxation for school purposes shall be the property liable for municipal taxation, or which would be so liable if situated within a city or town. Farm buildings and other farm improvements on unsubdivided farm lands, and livestock and farm implements used and kept on a farm, are however, exempted from taxation for school purposes.

Land which becomes liable for taxation before the first day of September in any year in which a general assessment is not being made, shall be assessed for that year. Formerly only land which became liable before June 1st was so assessed. Any ratepayer who desires to object to an assessment is given forty days in which to do so, instead of twenty days, as hitherto. The court of revision is now given until December 15th to complete its work, instead of August 1st, and any errors may be corrected up to December 15th.

The appointment of a secretary or secretary-treasurer or other officer under the Municipal Hospitals Act is made subject to the approval of the Minister of Health.

Sale of Gopher Poison

Gopher poison may be sold in any district where no druggist habitually keeps an adequate supply, by any person who

has received a permit from the Provincial Police, to a resident of an improvement or municipal district, town or village, provided the poison is suitably labelled "poison."

The Small Debts Act was amended to enable a magistrate to try small debt cases, for amounts up to \$100.

BUDGET CONCESSIONS DUE TO ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZED FARMERS OF CANADA

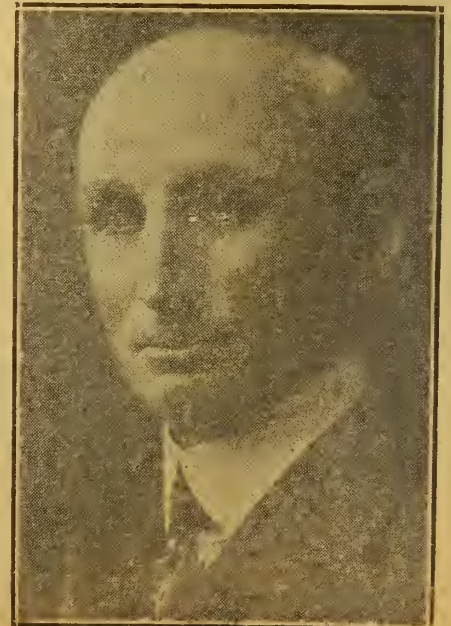
(Continued from page 4)

ation or of application of the Dumping Act were resorted to.

The debate on the budget commenced on Monday, April 14th, but as the House will adjourn on Wednesday, the 16th, for the Easter holidays, it is not expected that the amendment which the Conservatives will no doubt make, will be moved until after the Easter recess.

Towards Abolition of Capital Punishment

On Friday, April 11th, a spirited debate took place on the second reading of Bill No. 3 to amend the Criminal Code by abolishing capital punishment. The bill was presented by Wm. Irvine, M.P. for East Calgary. The debate lasted until the House adjourned at 12 o'clock (midnight). The vote cut across party lines, the Prime Minister, Minister of Justice, and Mr. Meighen opposing, while the Minister of Railways and the Solicitor-General supported it. Mr. Forke, Mr. Crerar, and a large number of the Progressives supported the bill, but when the vote was counted, it was defeated by a large majority. Mr. Irvine made a very able presentation of his case, and no doubt did a great deal towards hastening the day when capital punishment will no longer be the law of the land.



W. T. LUCAS, M.P.

News of the Organization

Activities of Locals and District Associations and Information From Central Office—Notes on Co-operation

Every Local Visited Shows Increase

Membership in Bow River Locals Doubled and Trebled in Some Instances

During the last two months J. K. Sutherland, director for Bow River, has addressed meetings of the following Locals, as well as smaller meetings in other places: Morrin, Munson, Mecheche, Normandale, Grassy Slope, Garden Plains, Mansfield, Richdale, Hand Hills Lake, Springwater, Cessford, Hutton, Pollockville, Carolside, Happy Union, Sunnynook and Rose Lynn. Every one of these Locals, writes Mr. Sutherland, has a larger membership already than last year's, and some have doubled or trebled their 1923 memberships. Mr. Sutherland feels sure that the U. F. A. is coming back as strong as ever in these districts, as the spirit manifested everywhere was most encouraging.

At many of the meetings Mr. Sutherland was accompanied by R. N. Mangles, Wheat Pool trustee, and he believes the meetings were in this way made more successful from the point of view of the U. F. A. and of the Wheat Pool.

SUGGEST AMENDMENT OF WHEAT POOL BY-LAWS

The following amendments in the Wheat Pool by-laws are suggested by the Islav local association:

"That the districts be based as nearly as practicable on an equal number of members; that each district be subdivided into ten, based as nearly as practicable on an equal number of members; that a delegate be elected by the members in each said subdivision; that the delegate call an annual meeting of members in his subdivision prior to the annual election of delegates, for the purpose of receiving nominations for the office of delegate and for a general discussion of Pool affairs; that nominations for the office of delegate shall be made at the said annual meeting, either in person or in writing, the ballot to be by postcard as at present."

Other resolutions recommend the fixing of salaries and maximum allowances for expenses of delegates, trustees and employees of the Pool, and suggest the adoption of a decimal system of weights, with a unit of 100 lbs.

URGES CO-OPERATION BETWEEN FARMER AND LABOR

H. A. Walter of Spring Coulee, who is at present in Washington, has written to "The U. F. A." expressing his pride in "our farm organization, and the successful start our farm paper has made."

"I hope to see the organization always at the front in a study of the problems of the day," he says, "and hope to see 'The U. F. A.' become the greatest paper published in Alberta. If the farmers will give to their own paper all the advertising of farm products and livestock, and make it the advertising medium for the sale of lands over the entire Province, it can be made a commercial asset, as

Owing to lack of space it has been necessary to hold over for publication in our next issue a considerable number of important items of news from Locals in all parts of the Province. During the session of the Legislature it was found impossible to publish many important items of news received from members, as almost all available space was required for the weekly reports of the proceedings of the Assembly.

well as a power in the political field."

Mr. Walter urges co-operation in the political field, between the farmers and labor, declaring that these two forces can bring into effect laws that will "render justice to mankind and usher in an era of prosperity that will endure."

PROTEST AGAINST MACHINERY PRICES

Nakamun Local recently passed a resolution protesting against the continued rise in price of agricultural machinery, and pledging their members to "desist from purchasing any more new implements, and that in the interests of economy, and with the spirit of mutual aid and co-operation, we make our present outfits serve our purposes, and agree to assist our neighbors wherever a lack of proper machinery is observed."

District Drive Shows Excellent Results

Locals in Craigmyle Association Report on Work Accomplished

Splendid results from the drive put on by the association were reported at the convention of the Craigmyle U. F. A. District Association, held in the Farmers' Hall, Craigmyle, recently. Mansfield and Chain Lakes Locals had secured about seventy members each in their contest.

Delia Local presented a resolution asking for legislation compelling elevators to instal automatic self-registering scales. This was carried, as was one from Hanna Local, asking for more speedy returns of inspection reports, so that if a shipper were dissatisfied with the grading and docking received he would have an opportunity to obtain re-inspection. A resolution from Verdant Valley Local favored the placing of safety gates at all level railway crossings.

A resolution was carried asking that resolutions for the Provincial Annual Convention should be sent to the Locals during the months of June, September and December. This was from Chain Lakes Local.

An address by R. N. Mangles, Wheat Pool trustee, was cordially received. Mr. Mangles dwelt on the part the U. F. A. had played in preparing the way for such an organization as the Wheat Pool.

The Craigmyle U. F. W. A. served supper to the visiting delegates, who showed their appreciation by a hearty vote of thanks.

Membership Doubled in Many Locals

Reports Continue to Show Increased Activity—Chain Lakes Local Raised From 17 to 71

Chain Lakes Local, writes Mrs. Mary Banner, Watts, "have just completed a drive for membership in which they have raised our numbers from 17 to 71." They gave a neighboring Local a challenge, the resulting contest ending in a tie. The Locals, Mansfield and Chain Lakes, are situated about eight miles apart. The territory covered in the drive was about fourteen by eight miles, and the percentage of farmers who are now members of the Locals is about 95.

Hundred Per Cent. Increase

A hundred per cent. increase in membership is reported by Hughenden Local. A debate, "Resolved, that wheat growing is more profitable than mixed farming on a half section of land," was won by the negative team, Messrs. Angus D. McCuaig, Allan Iondale and Orsen Wright. Messrs. Alex. Walthe, S. Lindale and S. Wright supported the affirmative.

Lougheed Doubled Also

Lougheed Local now has twice as many members as in 1923, and the number is steadily increasing.

Del Bonita Local

Del Bonita Local, writes the secretary, G. H. Lightfoot, "is a live Local, striving for better things in the lease country, and to work for the benefit of the community in every way—roadwork, railway facilities, etc. The meetings are very successful, and end with a musical program and light refreshments served by the ladies present and enjoyed by all."

Only Two Failed to Join

All but two farmers in the district are now members of Finn's Lake Local, a recent drive having increased the membership to forty-five.

Grande Prairie Drive

Grande Prairie Local are holding a drive which they expect will be very successful. The secretary, P. J. Tooley, writes: "The U. F. A. paper has been of great assistance in carrying on during the dull times and has kept old members interested. I think it will be the means of getting them back as paid up members."

Expect 50 Per Cent. Increase

Fifty per cent. increase in membership over last year is looked for by W. H. Evans, secretary of Red Deer Local, who writes that the outlook is good. An agricultural short course is being arranged by this Local, in conjunction with the Red Deer Board of Trade and the local branch of the Soldiers' Settlement Board. Several lecturers from the University at Edmonton will conduct the course, and a lecture on growing seed grain will be given by Major Strange, of Fenn. The course will be held on March 26th and 27th, and will conclude with a banquet.

(Continued on Page 10)

New Wheat Pool Membership Lists Are Now Almost Completed

Contracts Steadily Coming In—Membership in Neighborhood of 29,000—Prepare for Ballot for District Delegates

The Song of the Pool

IT CAN BE DONE

By Edgar A. Guest.

Somebody said it couldn't be done,
But he, with a chuckle, replied
That "Maybe it couldn't"; but he
would be one

Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried;
So he buckled right in, with the trace
of a grin

On his face—if he worried he hid it;
He started to sing as he tackled the
thing

That couldn't be done, and he did it.

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never
do that;

At least, no one ever has done it!"

But he took off his coat, and he took
off his hat,

And, the first thing we knew, he'd
begun it.

With a lift of his chin, and a bit of a
grin,

Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the
thing

That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it
cannot be done;

There are thousands to prophesy
failure;

There are thousands to point out to
you, one by one,

The dangers that wait to assail you.
But, just buckle in, with a bit of a
grin,

Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start to sing as you tackle the
thing

That cannot be done, and you'll do it.

[The above verses, by the Canadian poet, Edgar A. Guest, were recently published in "The Progressive" of Saskatoon.]

In the neighborhood of 29,000 wheat growers are now signed up in the Alberta Wheat Pool, according to the latest returns received. Contracts have been coming in steadily since the commencement of the drive on March 17th, and a hundred of these, and a considerable number of reinstatements were received on April 28th, the last day for which figures are available as this issue goes to press. For trade reasons the acreage under contract has not been made public.

The Alberta Wheat Pool is the biggest institution of its kind in the world. The Board of Trustees are well pleased with the support which has been given to the drive for members, as well as with the results obtained.

The New Membership Lists

Within the next few days the new membership lists will be on the press, and every effort is being put forth to make them as complete and up-to-date as possible. The names of any members whose contracts are received after the lists go to press will not appear in these lists. The secretary of the Pool is anxious to have as many of these late names as possible included in the printed lists, and is therefore holding them open until the last moment. Members will be conferring a favor if they

will carefully check their names and addresses on the lists they receive, and notify the head office of the Pool promptly if any corrections are necessary.

With a view to avoiding confusion, in cases where similarity of names, initials and addresses occur, each member has been given a number which is set opposite his name on the new membership lists. It some cases it may be necessary to ask members to use this number, and thus co-operate in keeping the records of the head office in order.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held in Calgary on Wednesday, May 14th.

Election of District Delegates

With regard to the annual elections it may be pointed out that Section 3 of the by-laws of the association provides that "Between the fifteenth and twentieth day of May in each year, a list of all names of members in a district, and a post card ballot shall be mailed by the secretary to each member of the association in that district, at such address of the member as appears on the books of the association. Each member may then select and vote for one member of his district as his choice for District Delegate. Each ballot must be returned to and received at the head office of the association not later than five o'clock in the afternoon on the second Tuesday in June each year.

"All ballots received before five o'clock on the second Tuesday in June each year shall be polled by the Trustees before the third Tuesday in June in each year, and the ten members in each district receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected as the District Delegates for their respective districts."

The annual meeting of the delegates will be held in August, commencing on the first Tuesday in the month, unless the same falls on a statutory holiday, when the meeting shall be held on the next thereafter.

The new ballot cards which are being sent out are distinct in character from those used last fall. Every member should mark his ballot plainly with the name of his choice and return it promptly to head office, so as to insure that it is received in time to be polled. Every member is urged to express his wishes in the government of the Pool, by the use of his ballot card.

NEWS OF THE ORGANIZATION (Continued from Page 9)

Cheadle Reorganized

Reorganization took place recently of the Cheadle Local, following an address by S. J. Ewing, of Irricana. The officers elected are John Kent, president, and O. G. Craig, secretary.

MAY VOTE FOR SCHOOL TRUSTEES

An amendment to the School Act, giving the right to fathers and mothers of resident ratepayers to vote at elections for school trustees, was carried at the recent session of the Alberta Legis-

lature, on motion of A. G. Andrews, member for Sedgewick. Hitherto the right has been limited to the wife, husband, son, daughter and sister.

MEMBER'S ACTION APPROVED

"I can assure you that your action in resigning from the Dairymen's Association is generally approved in this district," states Lennox Russell, secretary of the Trochu Local, in a letter to N. S. Smith, M.L.A. Similar letters have been received from other quarters.

EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 3)

farmers of this Province, and of all public men who are not afraid to face realities, and it is only by a frank facing of realities that improved conditions can be brought about.

We are glad that Mr. Garland's speech was delivered in Montreal, one of the citadels of Canadian reaction.

When the British Labor party was rising to power, it was contended by Winston Churchill and other politicians of the old school, that Labor was not "fit to govern", because it was lacking in the innate ability and in the experience in statesmanship possessed by Mr. Churchill and his friends.

This is the comment on the new Labor Government of J. D. Whelpley, an independent observer of international reputation, who has never been regarded as a partizan of organized labor. It is from the last issue of the North American Review:

"There has probably been no abler cabinet selected by any English prime minister than that now managing the affairs of Great Britain and the British Empire. There have been abler individuals in other cabinets than there are to be found in that of Mr. MacDonald, but the general average is far above the usual group to be found in office. . . . Each and every one of the present cabinet is a man who has won his spurs by hard work, innate ability and original method. The much talked of inexperience of the members of the new Government is unimportant. Every few years men are brought into the cabinet at Washington who are as a rule far more inexperienced in the conduct of Governmental affairs than the members of Mr. MacDonald's cabinet."

"In all fairness to the Provincial Government the crossing of the floor by the member for Claresholm means very little. He was elected as an Independent and should have sat with the Independents from the beginning. If he had made his protest against the Government's financial policy as an Independent it would have had at least the appearance of sincerity."—Calgary Herald.

There are many members of the public who might be inclined to support the demand of the financial newspapers and of certain eminent bankers, that the penalty of the lash be revived for bank robbers, provided that this penalty is first inflicted on men on the inside who may be convicted of robbing the public. We do not advocate the lash, but if it should be revived, its first victims should be those whose offense has caused the most serious injury on the public. Serious as the offense of bank robbery from the outside is, it has not yet resulted in any member of the public of moderate or small means losing his life savings. It is, therefore, from the public standpoint, a lesser offense than robbery of the public by dishonest bank officers. To subject the lesser offenders to the lash, and to allow men of wealth and position to escape, would obviously be one of the worst forms of class discrimination. We anticipate, therefore, that the bankers will insist that this form of corporal punishment shall first be inflicted upon influential men who have robbed the public. After that the form of punishment to be inflicted on the lesser offenders may properly be considered. Mr. Woodsworth's remarks on this subject were timely and very much to the point.

"Never to repent and never to reproach others; these are the first steps to wisdom."
—Diderot.

THE SESSIONAL REPORTS

In view of the fact that many of our readers have relied for their news of the recent session of the Legislature entirely upon the reports published in this paper, we feel warranted in stating that we have received from a well-known member of the Liberal party a communication commenting on the fairness of these reports, while several members of the party have expressed themselves to similar effect. The communication was received from a member previously unknown to the correspondent. C. R. Mitchell, quoting "The U. F. A." in the Legislature, said that he had found the reports reliable and accurate. Much of the important discussion in the Assembly could not be adequately reported, owing to lack of space.

BIG SAVING IN FENCE POSTS

Already this year the Beiseker Local have brought in three carloads of fence posts and poles at a big saving to their members and other members of the community. J. H. Schmaltz, secretary, writes: "Without having a drive of any kind men have come to meetings and paid their fees; already we have 50 per cent. more paid-up members for 1924 than we had for 1923."

A local Wheat Pool association was formed at Joffre on April 3rd, with L. Maddox as president and R. H. Liske as secretary.

DISALLOWANCE OF MINERAL TAX CONSTITUTES REVERSAL IN CANADIAN CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

(Continued from page 1)

of the Province, but if there is any doubt of its constitutionality, then that question should not have been left to the sole opinion of the Department of Justice for Canada, but the Province was entitled to have the question referred to the courts. as was done by the Dominion Government in the case of the Manitoba tax on grain futures, when an application was made by the Government of Saskatchewan to have that bill disallowed on the ground that it was unconstitutional. The Province has been denied the right to have the constitutionality of the act determined by the courts.

REVIVES THEORY OF SUBORDINATION

As to the bill being confiscatory, it may again be pointed out that for years succeeding Ministers of Justice refused to consider this question in dealing with Provincial legislation, and the exercise of the power of disallowance on such grounds is a distinct negation of the theory of constitutional practice developed during the last two decades, and revives again the theory that the Provincial Government is subordinate to the Dominion Government. The Province denies that the bill is any more confiscatory than any other taxation measure, the penalty of forfeiture only being invoked on failure to pay the tax and after a year given for redemption.

The decision of the Dominion Government is one of far-reaching importance to Provincial Governments, as an intolerable situation will result if a Dominion Government, possibly differing politically from a Provincial Government, is again to adopt the attitude that it will act as censor of Provincial legislation. The decision constitutes a distinct reversal in the development of Canadian constitutional practice.

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Earnings credited 1914.....			197.85
Earnings credited 1919.....			353.40
Earnings credited 1923.....			557.45
Total end of 14th year.....			1108.70
Required to pay future premiums			1046.70
Cash Surplus to Assured.....			\$ 62.00

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The Provincial Poultry Plant has for sale Day-Old Chicks of the following breeds at the following prices:

	May 1 to 31	After May 31
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Better Conditions Are Sought for Soldier Settlers of West

Committee Anxious to Receive Suggestions—Present Obligations Cannot Be Met, Says Garland

Editor, "The U. F. A."

Through your valuable paper I wish to call the attention of my constituents, especially those who are interested in the Soldier Land Settlement Scheme, to the situation that now prevails.

I have long been convinced of the utter impossibility of the returned soldiers meeting the obligations that they have assumed. The attempt that was made two years ago to meet the situation by remitting some \$12,000,000 of interest and extending the time of payment, has proved to be pitifully inadequate. Sooner or later the country must face the alternatives of reducing the capital indebtedness or of seeing the land all thrown back on its hands. There is no need to argue this point with those who are actually in contact with farming conditions in the West. A few days ago a motion was made in the House by the member for Dauphin asking for a committee of the House to study the whole problem. Only a few members took part in the discussion, but enough was said to bring home to those who are not particularly familiar with the situation, the true seriousness of the case. The motion was not pressed to a vote, but the Minister, Dr. Beland, promised that in a few weeks a committee would be appointed having more extended powers than the one asked for.

In the meantime a small committee of the Progressives has been appointed to consider all matters relating to the returned soldiers' welfare. This committee is anxious to receive information and suggestions from all persons or organizations that may be interested, and will also be prepared to submit on application a form of questionnaire in order that the soldier settlers may tell as much as they see fit of their own difficulties, and the reason why they consider measures of relief necessary. They will thus facilitate the settlement of what is one of the most difficult problems confronting us today.

Yours truly,

E. J. GARLAND.

Ottawa, Ont.

Railway Problems of Northern Alberta

Editor, "The U. F. A."

A report appeared in the Edmonton press a month or so ago regarding a deputation of farmers accompanied by their wives, sons and daughters from the Pembina and Clearwater districts which waited on the Alberta Government and Legislature and asked for the construction of a line of railway beginning at Busby, a station on the E. D. & B. C. Railway, about forty miles north of Edmonton, and extending northwestward through these districts to Fort Assiniboine and thence to Grande Prairie. The speakers told a story of hardships and disappointments that should have touched the most callous and indifferent. Unfortunately it has been the story of the settlement of the entire Canadian Northwest. At the bottom of it all is the practice of encouraging settlers to locate in remote districts under promise, expressed or implied, of railway developments at an early date, and then when they have invested all their capital and done several years of hard pioneering and development work, forgetting all about them. The story is interesting to Grande Prairie readers for the further reason that the movement promises, at some future date, an additional railway into this district, and more direct connections with Edmonton and points east than we now have or will have even after the Brule Lake line is completed; provided of course that the agitation there-

for is "all wool" and is not being engineered by someone who has an interest in "pulling the wool over someone else's eyes."

We are free to admit that if we were operating a railway and coveted a monopoly of the traffic of a highly productive district such as the Grande Prairie district is and scented danger of strong competition from a line such as the Brule Lake line will be, and possibly later on from another projected from Whitecourt, we would engineer an agitation for a line starting from somewhere between Morinville and Westlock going northwestward and ultimately to Grande Prairie. In fact we would start an agitation for a dozen or more branch lines in various parts of the country; and at the same time we would stir up another agitation in the east and such American centres as the Government might find it necessary to go to in order to borrow money, and we would inform all and sundry of how close the Dominion is to the verge of bankruptcy and the absolute necessity of refraining from further borrowing even for the most essential development work, in order that when the matter of voting funds for the construction of our competitor's proposed line comes up for consideration in Parliament, we would have everything ready for one section of our henchmen in the House and Senate, especially the Senate, to advocate the construction of the dozen and one lines that we had started an agitation for; another section would wildly stress the danger of bankruptcy and the importance of retrenchment; and a third sagely inform the members of the futility of the entire project, in view of the fact that the Alberta Government is planning to extend railway services into that same district; and by creating such a "barrage" we feel certain that the project would be defeated and we would then be permitted to "gang oor ain gait" for another decade.

E. H. KEITH.

Lake Saskatoon.

CANADA OF TOMORROW

Editor, "The U. F. A.":

At a meeting called by the Clyde Local U.F.A., Prof. A. E. Ottewell, of the Dept. of Extension, University of Alberta, gave an illustrated lecture entitled "Canada of Tomorrow." The following extracts from Prof. Ottewell's speech are quoted from memory; other members who were at the meeting concur with me and state the extracts quoted are approximately as delivered by the Professor:

"Agriculture at the present time is the basic industry in Canada—that is only to be expected in a new country. Wheat growing is the most primitive kind of agriculture.

"Manufacturing is of great importance and the main factor in the development of the country, and as the country develops agriculture will become only of trifling importance.

"Britain is on paper a free trade country; actually nothing of the kind. Britain has something that has all the tariff schemes of the world completely beat—the embargo.

"With our vast natural resources we should build as the U.S.A. has built and make this one of the best (manufacturing) countries on earth. Build up your industries, your schools and your colleges and you will solve your emigration problem.

"Put men on the school boards who are not afraid to spend money, and who do not count the paltry pennies. In nearly every district if you want to find the most ignorant men of the district, ask for the school trustees. The only qualifications they have for the position is that they won't spend money. How can you get or how can you expect to get sane, intelligent leadership or government of the people by the people, when the people are such an ignorant, stupid, only slightly educated lot? He would cite one instance of our lack of education to prove his statements, as follows: In the early days the C.P.R. published a map showing the southern portion of the present Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan marked as 'desert area, not fit for agriculture.' Owing to our lack of education the people were allowed to settle the southeastern portion of this Province when it was nothing but a desert and unfit for agricultural settlement.

"The Wheat Pool is an experiment, two or three years from now we will know if it is going to be a success or not.

"Canada had one big crop as yet untouched—'Scenery' (pictures of Jasper Park)—worth millions of dollars to the country from tourists if only the narrow minded politicians would consider the question from the standpoint of the country as a whole, and had the intelligence to grasp the importance of completing the highway to Jasper Park."

Comment on the above statements by me, I feel, unnecessary. I was surprised to hear a man from that institution, the University of Alberta, making statements so obviously inaccurate and misleading. I hope you will consider this matter of sufficient importance to give it space in your valuable paper.

D. MACLACHLAN,

Clyde, Alta.

PROTEST DEDUCTION FROM CREAM CHEQUES

Editor, "The U. F. A."

Among the resolutions adopted by the Alberta Dairymen's Association at the recent convention was one of peculiar significance to all cream producers. It stated that whereas the collection of fees on the basis of fifty cents from all cream patrons was found hard to collect, that the creameries should collect from each producer for one week, one cent per pound butter fat for the year 1924, in accordance with the system carried out in the year 1923.

This we emphatically protest against, as an injustice. The producers as a whole were never consulted about that fee; never knew when it was taken out of their cheque or how often.

If the creameries can take that out of our cheque for one week without any authority, what is to hinder them from taking it out for two or more weeks, or whenever they are short of funds?

We do not see why we should contribute to the upkeep of the Alberta Dairymen's Association, as we of this district at least are not represented on the floor of their convention, and we have failed to see where there were any resolutions passed to lighten the burden of the producer.

We might as well ask, why not take one cent per bushel from all grain producers for one week to go to the upkeep of the U. F. A., as that association is ten times more valuable to the producer than the Alberta Dairymen's Association. All U. F. A. delegates' expenses are paid by the respective Locals who send them. In the case of the Alberta Dairymen the producer is paying for the expenses without getting any effective representation, and this we most emphatically refuse to do, and we demand that this deduction from our cheques be put a stop to at once. We have no more right to pay that than we would have to pay the expenses of grain dealers or the Manufacturers' Association, or anyone else who is buying our produce.

We would therefore request that you give this as prominent a place in your U. F. A. journal as you can, and let all Locals take it up with their M.L.A.'s, as we are doing. Thanking you in advance for the favor.

T. R. SCOTT,

R. M. LARSON,

A. BERGER,

Holborn, Alta.

Committee.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Editor, "The U. F. A."

The Canadian Council of Agriculture have endorsed the League of Nations, and most people believe in anything that will work towards peace.

Few people, however, realize the real object of the present League. It was organized first to enforce the Paris Peace, secondly to give the entente nations absolute power to control the League's undertakings. For that purpose it is divided into two sections:

The council, composed of England, Belgium, France and Italy, and the assembly that everybody—except those that fought on the other side—can join if they agree to help enforce the above mentioned peace and help to pay and protect the above mentioned nations.

Section 10—The Assembly can only deal with questions unanimously permitted by the council.

If the U. S. should now join and undertake to do anything in the League they would first have to obtain permission from Belgium. Uncle Sam is not likely to do so. The small neutral nations were simply told to join.

When we remember that 90 per cent. of the people on our globe regard the Paris peace as the worst ever transacted in the entire history of the world the present League is rather a hopeless case. Canada can make better use of her money than to maintain two useless members in the useless assembly.

The present League is an instrument to deceive. Recent transactions with the Turks showed that even they understood the real meaning of it.

T. K. ROGNE.

Millet, Alta.

INTEREST RATES AND PRICES

Editor, "The U. F. A."

In this letter I am going to attempt to show the effect high interest rates and low prices of farm products are having upon the West.

I know one farmer who secured a \$1,100 loan from certain associated mortgage investors of New York at 9 per cent., and paid his interest promptly for 5½ years. He secured a renewal but since then he had hard luck. He lost 30 sheep in 1921, about 30 in 1922, by the coyotes, bought a half section of wild land for his boys, had it fenced and 20 acres broken by 1914. When the war broke out the two boys enlisted; they each sent home \$10 a month to help pay for the land. They were only overseas for about six months when they were both killed; the assigned pay stopped and the father could not keep up the payments. He secured a mortgage of \$1,600. By selling another quarter section he cut it down to \$800. He was not able to farm the land and could not afford to hire help, so he got a loan from the bank, and bought a bunch of cattle so as to utilize the wild lands for pasture. The price of cattle fell and it cost him over \$1,000 to put them through the first winter, paying from \$40 to \$50 a ton for hay to winter them. After feeding them for two winters he then had to sell for \$10 and \$12 a head what he had had to pay \$75 for.

Now the mortgage investors in question are commencing foreclosure proceedings. The taxes are all paid to January, 1923, and there are no other prior claims. There is about \$300 back interest but about \$3,000 improvements in buildings, breaking, fencing, etc. He cannot get rent enough to pay interest and taxes. Overdue interest and back taxes on the other two quarters amount to about \$1,200. This is \$400 less than the original loan, but the agent says that unless the taxes are paid they must commence foreclosure proceedings or else make out a new mortgage and charge 10 per cent. Now, if this farmer was only paying 5 per cent. he could save his property yet. Both these loan companies have had more than their money back and are receiving another revenue from other mortgages with the funds paid by this farmer.

I have talked and written for five years before there was a U. F. A. for the New Zealand plan and at nearly every Convention I have pointed out that if we secured this it would mean more than ten times all the other reforms we were after. Mr. Mitchell, the Provincial Treasurer, came to the U. F. A. Convention about five years ago and promised to put into operation a plan similar to the New Zealand one but since we have a U. F. A. Government in Alberta the money power is more saucy than ever. Now, what Western Canada wants is lower interest rates and not more money. If I remember correctly Western Canada's interest bill on \$300,000,000 on farm mortgages and over \$100,000,000 on other debts at 9 per cent. would amount to \$36,000,000. Add to that their tax bill—it is a hopeless task and some relief will have to be provided at once.

W. R. BALL.

Deer Mound.

CASE FOR REMOVAL OF MOUNTAIN SCALE PRESENTED TO THE DOMINION GOVERNMENT

(Continued from page 5)

and opposed the application of the B. C. cities. J. S. Ewart, K.C., appeared for these Boards of Trade. He stressed the empty car movement Westward. In the judgment given by Chief Commissioner Killam these points are stressed: the comparative cost of operation and maintenance, and the difference in volume of traffic, as between the prairie and mountain sections.

The question came up again in the Western rate case in 1914, and also in connection with the Crow's Nest Pass agreement, when it was being dealt with by the Special Parliamentary Committee. It has also been urged that as Vancouver and B. C. cities had a favorable through rate owing to water competition as compared with points like Calgary and Regina, that, having this natural advantage, they should not complain of the natural disadvantages of high costs of distribution due to mountain grades, cost of operation, maintenance and construction.

We submit that these arguments in view of the developments of recent years, are no longer a justification for discriminatory rates on the Westward movement of grain.

Demand Rates Based on Cost

To begin with let us take the argument of the natural advantages and disadvantages, and let us remind you that we are now dealing with this question from a prairie standpoint. The prairies have two outstanding natural advantages in connection with the question of transportation, low grades and low cost of construction. Yet they are denied rates based on these costs. This point was brought out in the proceedings of the Special Parliamentary Committee for Railway Transportation costs in 1922, in the following manner:

Question—Mr. McMurray: "Mr. McGeer during his evidence this morning said that rates had nothing to do with the operating costs on the prairie. I gathered that was a statement made by the Board of Railway Commissioners at some time or other. Do you agree with that statement?"

Answer—Mr. Lanigan: "I think there are three things that make rates, and those are what Mr. George Olds, a very old traffic manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway, used to call the three C's: Conditions, Circumstances and Competition. You cannot segregate the cost of carrying a certain class of traffic for one year as compared with the cost of another year, and build up any kind of a tariff under which these people are interested."

Question—"I was not asking you for the argument, but whether you agreed with that statement?"

Answer—"I do not agree with that statement, that is, that the rates are built on the cost."

Question—"No, that the rates are not built on the costs on the prairies?"

Answer—"They are not and cannot be built on the costs. The whole rate system has to furnish a certain amount of revenue to meet the cost of operation." (Page 573).

Extraordinary Disparities

In the evidence of Mr. Symington who represented the three Prairie Provinces before the Committee, appears the following statement re this question. (Page 302): "We come in and show most extraordinary disparities. The Board say, 'Yes, there is discrimination and if it were not for water and American rail competition, there would certainly be a readjustment; but in view of this maximum created by natural laws, we cannot raise the East, and therefore we will not lower the West because the railways have to have the money.'"

After the promulgation of General Order No. 308, of the Board of Railway Commissioners, providing for the general rate increases known as the 35 and 40 per cent. case, effective September 20th, 1920, various bodies appealed to the Privy Council asking that the said order be rescinded. The matter was heard by the Privy Council, and on the 6th day of October, 1920, by P. C. No. 2423, the appeal was dismissed by His Excellency in Council, but in doing so, he

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are low and the Grain Growers' expenses are no less so that it becomes imperative that every Grain Grower should endeavor to dispose of his grain in such a way that he will get every fraction of a cent there is in it.

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stated as follows: (I merely quote a few lines.)

"The Committee of the Privy Council therefore further recommend, that as conditions have probably changed materially in recent years, tending more and more to make equalization practicable, an enquiry by the Board be directed, to be held at the earliest date with a view to the establishment of rates, meeting to the utmost extent possible the above requirement as to equalization."

Natural Disadvantages Overcome

The point I wish to emphasize is that it is generally admitted that prairie rates are higher than Eastern rates, though the prairie costs as to construction and operation are lower. In other words the prairies are denied in the interests of the Dominion as a whole a rate based on the cost of railway service, on the prairies. They are denied rates based on their natural advantages, and they have in addition heaped upon them the natural disadvantages of high costs of moving freight Westward, yet, due to the construction of the C. N. R. to Vancouver, the natural disadvantages have been overcome.

In the Canadian Railway and Marine World of December, 1919, at page 643, there is an article by Thos. H. White, Chief Engineer, Canadian Northern Pacific Railway, Vancouver, entitled, "The Mountain Gradients on the Canadian Northern Railway System." The concluding paragraph is as follows:

"The more technical part of this statement will appeal to railway men, but all of it must impress everyone, who learns of it as an extraordinary fact that such a railway through such a country as British Columbia should be possible. Considering that this is an outlet from that immense area East of the Rocky Mountains tributary to the C. N. R., which is North of the C. P. R., and as far East as Manitoba, and which is beyond doubt the best adapted to the raising of grain and general farming of all the immense North Western territory of Canada, and that it is also an inlet from the Pacific to the same under such favorable haulage conditions, can it be questioned that it will develop immense business both Easterly and Westerly which it will be able to create as soon as conditions become normal for water borne freight on the Pacific. Between the Great Plains and the Pacific Ocean the mountains are no longer a barrier, since the C. N. R. has come into existence, for they are crossed by this railway with a line which is comparable in the matter of gradients to a like distance in the least mountainous districts on the continent, and is capable of hauling as great tonnage as rapidly and cheaply as any."

Grain Most Profitable

It has been felt by some that the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement rates gave the prairies a rate on grain that was unfair to the rest of Canada. We submit that an analysis of the earnings of the two large railway systems will not substantiate that contention. In the Montreal Gazette of March 29th, 1924, there is an article on page 22, entitled, "Another Advance in C. P. R. Earnings". There is a statement of the gross and net earnings of the Canadian Pacific, by months during the years 1921, 1922, 1923, and for the first two months of 1924. The gross earnings show for the grain moving months of September, October and November, and in addition the net earnings of these three months is in nearly every instance the highest percentage of net to gross earnings of the year, indicating that the grain business is possibly the most profitable business that the railways have. This is due to the extent of the volume of traffic, the long hauls and the ease with which it is handled.

The monthly traffic report of the railways of Canada for November, 1923, issued by the Transportation Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, shows that wheat and grain handled during that month totalled 3,500,000 tons, while the total of all other products for the month was about 6,000,000 tons.

There still remains the question of the lack of traffic due to sparse settlements in B. C. This lack of traffic is being fairly met by the new movement of grain, principally

westward, Westward. It was pointed out in the judgment of 1914, dealing with the Western rates case (Canadian Railway Cases, 17, page 157), that the Lake Superior division of the Canadian Pacific is described as a bridge over which commerce is compelled to move. In the earnings credited to this division, it was shown to be one of the most profitable in the whole system of the C. P. R., yet it passes through as barren an area as there is in the whole Dominion. British Columbia and the mountains are in a similar sense a bridge over which the commerce of the Western Prairies must move.

Growing Importance of Route

I would like to quote a few figures before closing to illustrate the growing importance of this route, in regard to the exports of grain. During the year 1923, 22,564,000 bushels of grain were exported via Vancouver as compared with 14,460,000 bushels in 1922.

I have tried to show as briefly as possible, that the mountain scale rates should be done away with on grain, because conditions have so changed. The Western outlet by Pacific ports is vital to our prairie farmers and the volume of traffic and the favorable grade on the Canadian National Railway make such a movement practicable.

It must therefore be apparent that whatever reasons may have existed justifying the imposition of a mountain scale, these reasons have long since ceased to exist. The reasons now failing, the differential rate on grain movement Westward, should immediately be removed.

The Canadian Council of Agriculture earnestly urge the Government to give this vital matter its serious and early attention.

Land Grants to the Canadian Pacific

Glenn L. Carpender Discusses Position of Company and of Contract Holders

Editor, "The U. F. A."

Throughout history it has been the policy of new countries to give away, for various reasons, great tracts of land. The Dominion Government, partly because it was the custodian or vendor of more land than it knew what to do with, allowed large areas to fall into the hands of railway and land companies, who speculated in it.

In 1880 the Canadian Government gave to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company 28,000,000 acres of land as a subsidy for the construction of a transcontinental line from Montreal to the Pacific coast. This land was to be fit for settlement, selected in a belt twenty-five miles wide on each side of the main line from Winnipeg to the Rockies. By the construction of branch lines, additional subsidies were earned, so that altogether the company had in its hands—as an asset of somewhat doubtful value—34,683,110 acres of fertile western lands.

Mr. Beattie, President of the C.P.R., stated that up to the end of June, 1923, the Canadian Pacific Railroad had disposed of 18,194,737 acres of agricultural lands for which an average price of \$7.87 was received.

In 1889 (quoting C. A. Meer, chief witness for the Express Traffic Association) the company was given constructed railway to the value of \$35,000,000 and \$25,000,000 in cash. The balance sheet in 1922 showed that the company's assets had increased in value over and above operating expenses, dividends and interest on fixed charges, to about \$400,000,000. (Taken at Ottawa, March 12, 1924.)

The C.P.R. has been instrumental in bringing and settling on their land 100,000 settlers, of which number some 30,000 remain who are under contract to the C.P.R. to pay for their land under a twenty-year contract, with interest at 6 per cent. per annum, and 1-20 of the principal paid each year. When not paid the interest is compounded. At first the land was sold under a five year contract; then when the settlers were unable to pay there was a new contract made for ten years; later it was decided to make it twenty years and as there were

some 30,000 contract holders in 1923 who were in arrears of interest and principal, with no hopes of paying, the C.P.R. decided to again make a new contract, this time for 34 years; but one of the jokes of this contract was that it called for a payment, on a \$10,000.00 farm, of \$7671.75 more than one would pay under the 20 year plan.

Part of this land having only rainfall enough to produce about one crop in seven, it was decided that an irrigation system would be beneficial; and thereby was launched one of the largest irrigation schemes on the American continent, costing \$18,000,000, which was passed on to the settler in his contract. However it has not proven a success outside of water for stock, except in a few isolated cases. In fact taken as a whole it is a menace to the country, spreading noxious weeds, and where used extensively ruining the land for want of proper under drainage.

The company have title to land under the irrigation system. In the dry areas they only take title from the Government when the settler's contract is fulfilled, and then pass title along. There are practically 15,000,000 acres of unsold land which the company has never had to pay taxes on until recently, or in fact the land that had gone back to the company after having been sold by them drew no taxes. Now they are paying thousands of dollars out annually on deserted farm lands and as yet they have made no effort to hold the settlers on the land, rather depending on getting new settlers with money.

In some instances great crops have been raised, not yearly but every few years. However, owing to the excessive freight rates, the high interest and burdensome tariff, the assets of the farmers in this district have practically disappeared and they are yearly getting deeper into debt.

The C.P.R. colonization policy has been to paint the country in glowing terms. Their statements were far fetched and when the settler found that he had been led to believe that conditions were different than they were, he became dissatisfied, and that is no doubt one of the things that have driven people away.

The company, being protected by the Government, and not having to take their after-war-loss, has worked to the detriment of the country as a whole, as the Directors still are living in the rosy dream that the prices that prevailed during the war time will soon return, and while they sit fiddling, Canada is being depopulated. It is hoped that they will awaken to the true condition of affairs soon, if not for their own sakes, for the sake of the country and the people who have put their money and lives into it.

GLENN L. CARPENDER.

Irricana.

FIRST YEAR OF U. G. G. CATTLE POOL

The first year of the U. G. G. co-operative cattle pool was completed early in 1924, and during that time the pool handled one hundred thousand head of cattle. It has established its system, states the Livestock Marketing News, published by the company, and has become known wherever Canadian cattle are bought, as the agency having larger numbers and a better selection of cattle than any other source of supply.

The first year of operation has shown definitely that pool selling means higher prices for western cattle, and that prices in the West are regularly higher than if pool selling were not in operation. The margin between Winnipeg and Toronto prices, for example, is much narrower now than formerly. There are no longer sudden and violent drops in prices on western yards below the levels justified by prices on other markets.

Several thousand head of cattle have been exported to Great Britain, and a number to Antwerp, principally of a type suitable for immediate slaughtering. Although the embargo on store cattle was removed by Great Britain, economic and market conditions made it impossible for British farmers to buy Canadian cattle for feeding purposes in large quantities. The fact that the embargo was removed, however, strengthened the prices received for cattle sold to butchers.

SWINE

YORKSHIRES, PURE BRED, FOUR months. Mrs. H. P. Domoney, Penhold, Alta.

TAMWORTHS—NEW BLOOD FOR ALBERTA. Booking orders for May delivery pigs. Saskatchewan University sows bred to boar selected from Ontario grand champion herd. Government inspected and approved bacon type, \$20. Lyle's Tamworth Farm, Gleichen, Alta.

CHOICE REGISTERED YORKSHIRES FOR spring breeding; boars, gilts, \$15 to \$20; unrelated pairs, \$30, three \$42; weanlings \$9. Howes & Sons, Millet, Alta.

YORKSHIRE SWINE, GOVERNMENT INSPECTED AND APPROVED, bacon type. Write for our price list before you buy. B. Thorlakson, Markerville, Alta.

FARM LANDS

HOTEL, OKANAGAN VALLEY, B. C., EX-change Prairie farm. "We Trade Everything." Wittichen's Limited, Calgary.

POULTRY AND EGGS

BRED TO LAY BUFF ORPINGTONS—Pen No. 1, selected by Government poultry representative, mated with trap nested cockerel, Filbasket strain, \$2.00 for 15 eggs. Pen No. 2, mated with exceptionally good cockerel, \$1.50 for 15. These birds are real producers. Reference: G. M. Cormie, Dominion poultry representative. Mrs. P. C. Loree, Nan-ton, Alta.

BARRED ROCKS EXCLUSIVELY. MY strain combines utility and exhibition qualities. 1923 Alberta laying contest, highest individual hen (288 eggs), ten pullets averaged 210 eggs. Alberta Provincial Show, 1923, all highest prizes for Barred Rocks. Record of Performance classes. Hatching eggs, \$3.00 and \$5.00 per fifteen. Satisfaction guaranteed. H. Higginbotham, Calgary.

RHODE ISLAND RED, ROSE COMB, GOV-ernment approved pens, headed by real Red cockerels; heavy laying strain. Eggs and chicks. R. B. Jones, Gleichen, Alta.

BEAUTIFUL BUFF ORPINGTON COCK-erels, pure bred, good type and color; grand laying strain. Price \$5.00 each. Neil MacFarlane, Youngstown, Alta.

WHITE WYANDOTTE HATCHING EGGS from heavy laying Government selected females, mated to cockerels from John S. Martin's best "Dorcas" matings, from hens with records from 200 to 267. Price \$3.00 for 15. Eggs from "Dorcas" pullets, mated to "Dorcas" cockerels. Price \$4.00 for 15. Satisfaction guaranteed. J. A. Larson, Fort Saskatchewan, Alta.

EGGS FOR SETTING FROM PURE-BRED Rose Comb Brown Leghorns; good laying strain; \$1.50 for 15. A. McCready, Erskine, Alta.

BRONZE TURKEY EGGS FROM PRIZE winning stock, 75c each, April delivery; May 50c. Pure-bred Toulouse goose eggs from mature stock, 50c. Have taken championships and firsts for my turkeys and geese past five years at Edmonton. Mrs. J. W. Cookson, Tofield, Alta.

DARK BARRED ROCKS EXCLUSIVELY—Hatching eggs from pens carefully selected for utility and exhibition, \$2.00 and \$3.00 per setting. Mrs. Roy Vold, R.R. 1, Ponoka, Alta.

PURE-BRED SILVER LACED WYAN-dotte eggs, \$2.00 for 15. Pure-bred White Wyandotte eggs, \$2.00 for 15. John Sollman Chipman, Alberta.

EGGS—SINGLE COMB WHITE LEG-horns. Pens have trap-nest record of 179 in 1st year. Cockerels are by an imported Hollywood cock, his dam being a 289 hen and sire from a 304 hen; \$2.00 fifteen. H. Goodwin, Gleichen.

BARRED ROCKS, HATCHING EGGS, FROM selected "Jogan tested" heavy laying females. Mated to 235 to 240 egg strain cocks. \$3.00 per 15. Henry Padberg, Sibbald, Alberta.

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS are inserted in this section for three cents per word per insertion. Count each initial as a full word, also count each set of four figures as a full word, as for example, "A. J. Smith has 2,000 bushels of Oats for sale" contains 10 words. Be sure to give your correct name and address. Do not have any replies sent to U.F.A. Central Office. Name and address will be counted as part of the advertisement and must be paid for at the same rate. All advertisements will be classified under the heading which applies most nearly to the article advertised. Orders for classified advertisements must be accompanied by cash, and must reach us at least eight days in advance of dates of publication, which are the 1st and 15th of each month. Cancellations must also reach us eight days in advance.

Address all correspondence to "The U. F.A." Lougheed Bldg., Calgary, Alta.

EGGS—PURE-BRED BRONZE TURKEY 20c; Toulouse goose 25c. Mrs. Walter, Tees, Alberta.

BARRED ROCKS; PEKIN AND ROUEN duck eggs that will win at your fair; \$3.00 setting. A. E. Simpkins, Leduc, Alberta.

HATCHING EGGS—FROM SELECTED pen, pure-bred, Barred Rocks, Clyde strain, \$2.50 per fifteen. Mrs. Kamer Zaworski, Vilna, Alta.

R.O.P. WHITE WYANDOTTES, 1921 MANI-toba contest winners; cock from 308-egg hen; daughters of these and Saskatchewan contest winners mated beautiful Regal Martin cocks; Government inspected and picked. Pen 1, eggs, \$5 for 15; chicks, \$14 for 30. Pen 2, eggs, \$3.75 for 15; chicks, \$12 for 30. Pen 3, eggs, \$3 for 15; chicks, \$10 for 30. May, \$1 less; June, \$1.50 less; chicks, June, \$2 less per 30. Mammoth Bronze turkey eggs, Toulouse goose eggs 40c; baby poults, \$1.00 each, also goslings. Clear eggs replaced after 10th day, if returned at purchaser's expense. Satisfaction guaranteed. Mrs. Thos. E. Robinson, Hardisty, Alta. Phone 109. Send enough for postage.

MAMMOTH BRONZE TURKEYS HEADED by Alberta Provincial Show first prize tom. Eggs, 30c each. Lyle Poultry Farm, Gleichen, Alta.

MAHOGANY RUSSIAN ORLOFFS EGGS for sale, \$3.50 for 15. Rose comb Ancona eggs for sale, \$2.50. Ben B. Gardner, Box 235, Macleod, Alta.

Advertise in "The
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"The U. F. A.",
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Dear Sirs:

Please continue my poultry and egg advertisement which is appearing in your paper, as I have found since I started using "The U.F.A." my business has greatly increased, the results having exceeded all expectations.

I will change my copy for your issue of April 15th, and now take this opportunity of thanking you for a very efficient service.

Yours very truly,

SAM SHEININ,
Dealer in Live and Dressed Poultry.
Calgary, March 31, 1924.

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SELLING CARLOAD OF BANNER SEED oats, third generation. Germination 96 per cent.; believed free from noxious weeds. Price 40c. O. S. Young, Lacombe, Alta.

HULLESS OATS, 4 CENTS PER POUND. Cloverset Farm, Edmonton.

CLOVERLEA SEED AND STOCK FARM, 8820 111th Street, Edmonton, offers the genuine Altaswede Red Clover seed, Alberta University strain; tested successfully seven years; recommended seeding in row 18 inches apart, 5 lbs. acre. \$1.00 pound. Dr. E. W. Allin, 8820 111th St., Edmonton.

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1924 BOOKLET GIVES VALUABLE HINTS and complete list of livestock and veterinary supplies, animal markers, ear tags, vaccines, medicines, instruments, etc. Write today. It's free. Winnipeg Veterinary & Breeders' Supply Co., Ltd., Calgary, Alta.

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